

**Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company**

**3M Center, PO Box 33427
St. Paul, MN 55133-3427 USA**

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Date: November 13, 2002
Number of pages
including cover sheet: 8

To:

**Tech Center 3700
USPTO**

Your Ref: 09/986,346
Phone:
Fax No. 703-872-9302

From:

Karl G. Hanson

Our Ref: 54135US011
Phone: (651) 736-7776
Fax No. (651) 736-3833

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NOV 13 2002
GROUP 3700

Remarks:

Attached are the following:

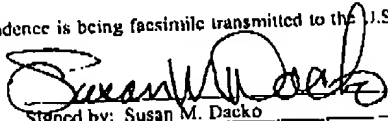
1. **Petition to Make Special (in duplicate); and**
2. **Copy of U.S. Patent 6,047,698**

Patent
Case No.: 54135US011

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: BOWERS, JOHN L.
Application No.: 09/986346 Group Art Unit: 3753
Filed: November 8, 2001 Examiner:
Title: UNI-DIRECTIONAL FLUID VALVE

STATUS INQUIRY

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION	
To Fax No.: 703-872-9302	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:	
November 13, 2002	
Date	Signed by: Susan M. Dacko

See Patent for part 12
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

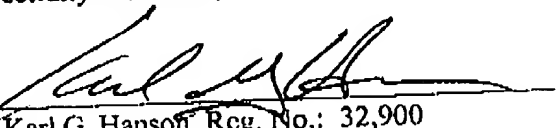
A request is made for the status of the above-identified application. An Office Action has yet to be issued for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

November 13, 2002

Date

By:


Karl G. Hanson, Reg. No.: 32,900
Telephone No.: 651-736-7776

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#11

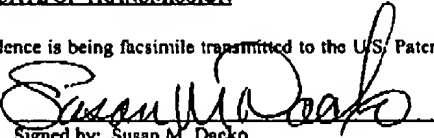
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PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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Dear Sir:

In accordance with the terms of Section 708.02 of the Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure and 37 CFR § 1.102, applicants petition to advance the examination of this application out of turn. Applicants request that this Petition be granted because of an actual infringement of the claims that are pending in this case. In furtherance of the Petition, the undersigned attorney hereby alleges that there is an infringing device product that is actually on the market and that a rigid comparison of the alleged infringing device with the claims of the application has been made. Applicants' attorney is of the view that some of the claims are unquestionably infringed. Applicants' attorney also has good knowledge of the pertinent prior art. Attached is a copy of U.S. Patent 6,047,698 which, is deemed to most closely represent the subject matter encompassed by the claims.

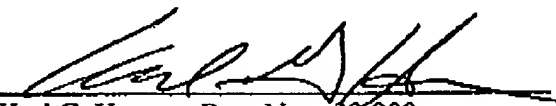
Please charge the \$130 fee for this petition under 37 CFR § 1.17(h) to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

November 13, 2002

Date

By:


Karl G. Hanson, Reg. No.: 32,900
Telephone No.: 651-736-7776

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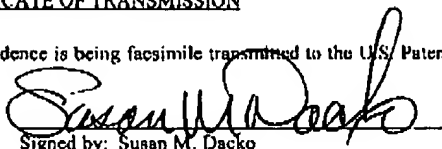
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